A TRUE

# RELATION

OF THE

# EXECUTION

OF

Mr. *WILLIAM STALEY.*

AT

# TYBURN

Who received Sentence of Death at the *Kings-Bench*-Bar at *Westminster*, on the 21*th* day of this Instant *November*, for HIGH TREASON, *To be Hang'd Draw'd and Quarter'd.*

With the manner of his Behaviour at the place of EXECUTION.

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**With Allowance.**

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*LONDON*: Printed for *D. M.* 1678.

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# The Execution of Mr. William Stalay, who suffered at Tyburn the 26th of November. 1679.

WHo-ever does but ſeriouſly conſider the Mercy, Clemency, and Juſtice, which his Gracious Majeſty has always been pleaſed to diſtribute, even among the meaneſt of his Native Subjects, muſt, at the ſame time, be forc't to admire how the craft or ſubtlety of the Devil could ever gain ſo great a Soveraignty over any of them, as to prevail with them to conſpire his hurt. An ingratitude fitter for the undertakings of *Infernal Spirits*, than any thing dreſt in a Humane Shape. And methinks ſhould not only make the worſt of Men, but the very Devil himſelf, as black as he is, bluſh to patronize.

What Goodneſs! What Bounty! What Priviledges, Peace, or Proſperity, do we expect to receive from the benign Rays of Indul-

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gent *Majesty*, if those we now enjoy under our *Most Gracious Soveraign* will not content us? What is it that we are depriv'd of? Or rather, can truly say we want, that we may reasonably expect under the protection of the most moderate or civilized Government which we do not now (unless our needless discontents hinder us) most plentifully partake of. For Gods sake let us examine our aggrievances. Are our Estates confiscated, or our Titles usurp'd: are our Labours unrewarded, or our Rights unmaintained by a due execution of the Laws? Are our Ordinances obstructed, or our Consciences impos'd on in the performance of them? Or what would we be at — Did ever Magistrate deal thus strangely with his People, to leave them nothing to complain of? Must the Offender's guilt fall on his own Head, and not one grain of wrong, or ill usage be reasonably alledg'd to allay or mitigate his Crime? Yes, and may *England* always boast of so good and gracious a Magistrate, whose mild and blameless Covernment may lowdly declare to all the World, that his Enemies are poor-spirited, base, and ingrateful, and that they will be so not-

notwithstanding the greatest civilities imaginable conferr'd on them to perswade them to the contrary.

But the unexampled happiness we receive under his present Majesties Government, will not be a little illustrated, if we turn our heads over our Shoulders, and look but backwards into the Cruelties and Irregularities of the late Usurpation, when both *Roman Catholicks*, as well as all other Opinions, except that which rag'd, at that time were equally involv'd in a general Confusion; when there were no other Plots but those of the *Tyrants* own making, and they too, so cunningly level'd, that the impious Contriver never fail'd to be sufficiently rewarded for his Invention: When the Coffers grew low it was but inquiring out a fat *Loyalist*, and there needed not many Circumstances to his conviction; it was Crime enough to be rich, and the intail at that time lying only in the head, it was but taking that off, and the Estate fell to the Usurper: What was there then, that, though we were in the fullest possession of, we could call our own? or which of us might not expect, that that Impudence, which ingrost the Crown, might

might not by the same Authority command our Estates, and share the Kingdom too? What they would have done we know not, but what they did, the exhibiter of this Sheet can too experimentally declare. The gaping Wounds of our then misfortunes lye yet unclos'd, and we still halt of the blow we receiv'd in those unhappy times, but should have been gladly content with our cripled condition, had not more recent Insurrection more than whisper'd to us, that we were likely again to fall into worse misfortunes.

On *Tuesday* Morning Mr. *Staley* was brought down out of *Newgate* in order towards his Execution; he appeared in a Black Suit and decently habited, at his first entrance on the Sledg, he shew'd all the signs of a Penitent Christian immaginable, such as lifting up his eyes and hands towards Heaven, and desiring as he went along all the People to pray for him; he was tyed to the Sledg with a Rope, which came over the upper part of his Body, and was made fast behind him to that part of the Sledg which was next to the Horse, he sitting with his face from them:

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His Hat he laid down by him, so that as he frequently lean'd backward, he was very openly to be seen, many Tears were discovered to fall from his eyes, and several parts of divers Prayers were heard to fall from his Lips.

I write not this with an intention to accumulate misfortunes, or to give a second suffering to the Relations of this deceased Person; no, God is my Witness, it would have been mine, and I think every good Christian (whether *Protestant* or *Papist*) joy to have seen him, after due examination, brought in *Not Guilty*; for knowing and worthy a Jury's Verdict for his innocency, would have giv'n us sufficient satisfaction, that he deserved no such lamentable and dishonourable end; as on the contrary their Virdict then past does undoubtedly inform us, he has this day suffer'd no more than what by the evidence which came against him, he ought by the establisht Laws of our Land patiently to undergo.

He was heard in the Prison to make several expressions well becoming the quality of his condition. After his Condemnation few or none

none but his Father and Sisters had admittance to speak with him, but he spent most of those precious Minutes in solitude and contemplations of his end. Being brought to the place of Execution he gave many Evidences by his look and actions of his Repentance. The time of his Execution being come, he was hang'd, and th n cut down, his body ripp'd open, and his heart taken out by the Executioner, who holding it forth in his hand, utter'd these words *Here is the heart of a Traytor.* After which his Quarters were brought back by the same Sledge that carryd his body to the place of Execution.